

FMSC Board Meeting Minutes - Annual Meeting

FMSC Board Meeting Minutes

Attendees, Board members: Pete Cappers, Chuck Steele, Russell Green, Ron Fesko, Seth Jolly, Lindsey Stoppacher, Jon Bang, Cort Ruddy.

Also present: 16 coaches and club members

- President Pete Cappers calls meeting to order & offers proof of filing notice
- Motion to have proof of filing notice entered in the minutes
 - (Ron Fesko motion, Jason Brien Second)
 - Approved

- Welcome and President's Message
 - PC Spoke to changes on the board. Many new members, with several senior members resigning recently. This is an opportunity to improve the club, improve contact with parents and coaches, and make it a better experience for the athletes.
 - We are looking to make the board more inclusive and representative of the community. If you are interested, please let us know.

- Awards Ceremony - Awards were presented to the following long time board members and former registrar.
 - Jan Rabynski – As the registrar for almost 2 decades, Jan was the heart and soul of the club leadership, and her dedication to youth soccer in this community is so recognized.
 - Luis Availa – Luis ran the travel program, and helped many young players improve their skill as he passed on his passion for the game.
 - Andrew Leary – As the de facto leader of the league for the last few years, Andrew ran the rec program, he lined the fields, he managed the refs. He basically did everything possible to keep this club afloat.

Report of officers:

- Treasurer (Russell Green):
 - Took over role in 2016, and wanted club finances to be as transparent as possible
 - 2016: Revenue just over \$85,000 -- Spring rec \$32K, fall rec, \$30K. Travel \$22K
 - Trend: 2 percent lower than previous year
 - Expenses: Program (registration, insurance) \$38,000
 - Pay \$41,000
 - Office expenses \$6,000
 - Expenses are also down \$824 over previous year
 - Cash on hand at end of 2016: \$24,000

- On to outstanding issue with club NFP status. Club was originally formed as NFP, but next steps weren't taken. None of the proper tax returns were ever filed.
 - Part of goal this year was to straighten out the NFP issue, working with state and federal government.
 - NYS Tax Department has issued an assessment of \$2600 to settle past filings
 - On IRS: Club has applied for NFP status.
 - The IRS will either issue a NFP letter, or assign an agent to work on the issue. Worst case scenario is that club will be asked to file all returns never filed. Likely that they will work with us.
 - Any question? **Question** asked on if participation was down:
 - Yes, it is down, but not significantly. Reflective of overall youth population changes in the school district.
- Recreation Program (Peter Cappers):
 - Briefly worked with Andrew on the program, Pete has been a coach and parent for some years.
 - Board created a Rec Committee to identify refinements to the program.
 - Questions like: Should we keep score, should we have playoffs?
 - Plan to do any changes in an incremental fashion.
 - One issue we want to address is effectiveness of coaching. Many coaches begin with no coaching experience and little soccer experience. We want to offer coaches clinics and make sure coaches have the tools to teach kids fundamental skills.
 - Team balancing is another continual challenge. Rec Committee would like to use grade coordinators to supplement rating system to field more balanced teams.
 - Set better and clearer expectation for coaches and parents about what to expect from the recreation experience.
 - Better align with the School District program, from a skill development perspective and in creating connections between players.
 - Longer term issues: looking at the age we separate boys and girls; end of season playoffs; looking for opportunities for additional skills training.
 - Travel Program (Ron Fesko):
 - Ron got involved as Luis stepped away. It is going well, with a good group of coaches
 - Attended CNY JSA meeting in January to reintroduce our club.
 - At CNYJSA -- Pass back kickoff adopted, but buildout line voted down
 - Reaching out to NY State West to make sure we have coaches passes
 - Working with Joe Papaleo, who is excited to build on what we are doing on skills development so our community club teams can compete with the regional-based clubs
 - Want to look at tryout and work to improve that process
 - Longterm: Want to build on the assets we have in the community, promotion of skills, recruiting of players from the younger level.
 - Better coach training, specific to age appropriate practice plan.

- Promoting club team to be more involved in the school program
- Grow into U13, U14 teams?
- Website/Communications (Cort Ruddy/Chuck Steele)
 - Working to improve communication on all levels. To do so, we created a communications committee.
 - We recognize that the communications has been inconsistent in recent years.
 - Part of it had to do with fluctuating personnel in that time period. However, there were also technical challenges based on the current website vendor.
 - We are committed to improving the communications with a couple of goals in mind.
 - First, we want to increase external communications with club members – parents and coaches -- via improved technology.
 - Second, we want to make sure that all communications are integrated among platforms – website, email, Facebook, twitter.
 - Finally, we want members to clearly understand how they can reach out to the league and the board in the event of questions, comments or complaints.
 - As part of this effort, we recently created a new Facebook Page facebook.com/fmyouthsoccerclub
 - Going forward, we are going to make sure links to that Facebook at included in emails sent by the club.
 - Second,, we are looking at moving to a new web site and host – one that specializes in sports leagues like ours.
 - We'll be reporting on this more fully at the next board meeting, but here are the highlights:
 - We are in talks with Blue Sombrero.
 - Blue Sombrero has 15 years experience in youth sports, and is now owned by DICK'S Sporting Goods.
 - The service includes free online registration and complete website services at no cost to the club.
 - It features:
 - Quick and Easy Registration Setup
 - Family Account Management
 - Bulk Email Communication
 - SMS Text Messaging and auto notification
 - Mobile App for Parents and Coaches
 - Integrated Team Pages, and much, much more.
 - This change will not happen until after the upcoming Spring season.
 - We will be discussing it in more details at the February Board meeting.

- Outreach (Seth Jolly)
 - Meeting with high school coaches about skills and coaching clinic
 - Planning to do skills session for coaches and players
 - Also discussing halftime games at high school games, plus ball boys and ball girls for HS games
 - Currently, FM girls coaches help off season indoor teams. There may be a way to expand that model.
 - Speaking with SU Coaches about club involvement
 - They had FM nights this past season
 - They need ball boys and ball girls too
 - We have no current sponsorships. There is an opportunity to get better sponsorship for the club.

- New Board Members
 - Pete: We are looking to be an inclusive board and encourage people to be involved, to serve on the board or a committee.
 - The board took nominations from the floor and voted to add 7 board members (All new members nominations were Motioned by Pete Cappers, and Seconded by Chuck Steele).
 - Chuck White
 - LJ Papaleo
 - Joe Papaleo
 - Steve Terchowicz
 - Meghan Dubulewicz
 - Mike Dubulewicz
 - Carol Galway

- Presentation of Updated Bylaws
 - Worked to modernize the bylaws over the past few months. Changes have been reviewed by an attorney and were shared with board members and reviewed at previous meetings.
 - Motion to introduce Updated Bylaws (Motion Seth Jolly, Second by Chuck Steele).
 - Adopted
 - Motion to accept Updated Bylaws, (Motion Lindsey Stoppacher, Second by Chuck Steele).
 - Adopted

- New Business - This is an opportunity for non-Board members to raise issues of concern.
- Setting date/time of February Board Meeting
 - Feb 13, 2017 depending on availability
- Adjournment
 - Motion made by Chuck Steele, Second by Cort Ruddy
 - Adopted